

Summer 2015

Dear Christ Medicus Supporters,

The Easter season with its joyous celebration of Pentecost leaves us with the Risen Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit to go out and spread the good news to all. I am very excited to report the good news from the Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF), our 501(c)(3) nonprofit tax exempt Catholic organization under the authority of Archbishop Allen Vigneron of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

The launch of Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF) CURO in January, 2015, the first of its kind Catholic health sharing experience: Together with Samaritan Ministries International (SMI), we are pleased to announce that we have enrolled over 450 households. Once a month, ministry members share the medical expenses of other Members who receive medical care and are in need of financial assistance. Members are exempt from the individual and HHS Mandates required by the Affordable Care Act. **See the enclosed reference letters from Raymond Cardinal Burke, Patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and Bishop Earl Boyea of Lansing announcing their role as Episcopal Advisors to the CMF CURO Advisory Board.**

The introduction of the Health Care Rights of Conscience Act (HR 940) on Feb 12, 2015: CMF in cooperation with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) continues to provide leadership on this very urgent legislation. HR 940 applies longstanding public policy on conscience protection to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Its goal is to ensure that the federal government cannot force individuals, charities, and businesses to buy and/or provide insurance plans that include coverage of items or procedures that violate their moral or religious convictions. Currently, there are 143 co-sponsors in the US House. As a member of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA) Ad Hoc Committee on Public Policy, I had the fortune to collaborate with Dr. Steven White of the CMA in drafting a personal letter that was delivered on May 13, 2015 to Speaker of the House John Boehner and all members of the US House of Representatives to express the urgency of co-sponsoring and voting on this most urgent legislation. **Please link to <https://www.votervoice.net/NCHLA/Campaigns/30688/Respond> and tell your U.S. House Representative to become a so-sponsor and to request a vote from the US House Leadership on HR 940. If possible, personally visit your Representative when he/she is in your local District.**

The opening of Emmaus Health in Ann Arbor, MI in January 2015, a Catholic Medical Center faithful to the Ethical and Religious Directives (ERDs) of Catholic Health Care and the Magisterial teaching of the Catholic Church: David Wilson and I are members of the Emmaus Health Advisory Board. The Christ Medicus Foundation (CMF) was able to play a significant role in coordinating the active participation of the Diocese of Lansing and St. Joseph Mercy Health. Through our collaboration with Emmaus Health, CMF plans to use the success of Emmaus in facilitating the development of similar faithful medical centers nationwide.

Collaboration with the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma in April 2015, in order to expand CMF's vision of facilitating the establishment of a nationwide network of Catholic Medical Centers similar to Emmaus Health: CMF was retained by the Sisters in the development and growth of their mission to ensure that Catholic health care will grow and give witness to the New Evangelization. David Wilson and I have accepted the position of Board Members and consultants.

Since the Christ Medicus Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, our work protecting Catholic health care in public policy and facilitating the development of faithful Catholic Medical Centers is dependent on the prayers and

CHRIST MEDICUS

financial contributions of the individuals who receive this newsletter. Please be as generous as possible. God has blessed us all differently in what we can afford to give. **Whether it be a gift of \$10, \$100, or \$1,000, it will go a long way to help in providing solutions to protect religious liberty and freedom to choose Christ-centered health care.** Through the grace of God and His Holy Spirit, CMF has accomplished great things. I am so thankful for all of you that have supported our ministry over the past 17 years and for all of you that will continue to be supportive of CMF's witness to the New Evangelization in Catholic Health Care. **The growth of our ministry is directly dependent on the generosity of our supporters. Please make your donation today and return to Christ Medicus Foundation, P.O. Box 530901, Livonia, MI 48153 or donate online at www.christmedicus.org.**

The attacks on our faith in the Affordable Care Act and the HHS mandate have given CMF national recognition as an innovator and leader in the battle for freedom in health care. CMF needs your assistance in expanding our work. **Religious liberty in health care faces a serious threat now more than ever. To point out the seriousness of this threat, I quote Mr. Richard Doerflinger, Associate Director of Pro-Life Activities at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: "In 2015, as in 2014, the most urgent public policy issue in bioethics will be the question whether protections for conscience and religious freedom will survive in the face of insistence by powerful elites that commitments to the dignity of human life must be overridden by their own vision of human progress and well-being."**

Great progress is being made in CMF's vision for the New Evangelization by creating and developing a new way of assuring that Christ-centered health care consistent with Catholic teaching is available to all. Because of the tumultuous times and evil we face in our secular culture, it is only through prayer, faith-filled courage, guidance from the Holy Spirit and your financial support that CMF can continue to grow.

For those of you that are reading this newsletter for the first time, your contribution to CMF can be a big help in expanding authentic Catholic health care in the public square and in the market place. I want to thank each of you who are now new members of the Christ Medicus Foundation through your enrollment in CMF CURO. By your enrollment in CURO, you automatically became a member of the Christ Medicus Foundation.

The war on marriage, motherhood and the sanctity and dignity of human life continues. Unless we reverse the ungodliness of our death-peddling culture and put God's children first, born and unborn, the world has no future. I thank the Lord for the grace and insight to see the evils of our time and for the opportunity to give witness to Christ by participating in this fight for the soul of America. I often find myself asking why God continues to put up with the killing of his innocent children. Why doesn't He intervene and hold us all accountable? Then I am reminded that we will each be held accountable in God's time.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit serve as a reminder and reinforcement of how good our God is and of Christ's victory over death and His presence with us forever. I often wonder how those who do not have Christ in their life survive in a world so full of hate and confusion. We are so fortunate for the gift of the Holy Spirit that gives us the courage and strength we need to persist in this fight for life and liberty.

God bless you all for your support,

Michael J. O'Dea
Founder and Executive Director